

MINUTES WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
July 13, 2018

At 8:00 AM the Wildlife Management Advisory Committee met at Borough Hall. Those attending were committee members Juetta, Chairman, Michaelis, Miller, Rubino, and Wellbrock. Also in attendance was Councilman Rob Gibbs. No other residents of Watchung or guests were present.

The committee agreed several meetings ago that this committee waives the format of Roberts' Rules of Order at all future meetings and will conduct itself on an informal basis.

The minutes of the prior meeting of 5/29, 2018 was unanimously approved by the other committee members.

It should be noted that Councilman Gibbs throughout the meeting gave significant evidence of personal comprehensive research.

Following a cursory review of the deer overpopulation density in Watchung, a discussion ensued about non-lethal options as to deer management, meaning deer population control. Two reports, over time, have been developed by committee members. One was authored by Ray Miller and the other by Paul Michaelis. The committee requested that the chairman should submit a copy of each to the Council.

Councilman Gibbs asked if this committee in its next annual deer management recommendation presentation to the Council would take a position on any other deer management options such as reflectors, sound devices or other items. The Councilman also requested this committee to recommend the number of deer warning signs which should be posted on Watchung roads other than on Valley Road and where the signs should be considered for posting.

A number of committee members endorsed the early submission to the Council of this committee's deer management recommendation. Chairman Juetta took the position that a meeting with the State DEP and Council could also be beneficial to the Council in their Deer Management Program decision making process. The matter of timing is such that if such a meeting were not to occur before Labor Day, the future effective approval of a deer management program would result in the failure to activate the program for the full deer hunting season. The Committee was appreciative of Councilman Gibbs' participation in the meeting; inasmuch as the committee believes it enhances the overall communication between the Council and the Committee.

The meeting was concluded at about 9:10 AM.

Richard D. Wellbrock, Secretary